

From: [Tyler, Tom](#) on behalf of [Freedhoff, Michal](#)
Subject: Safer Choice
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 1:17:54 PM

Dear OPPT Colleagues –

As many of you know, EPA’s Safer Choice program provides national and international leadership for EPA’s chemical safety mission, through identification, certification, and adoption of products containing safer chemical ingredients – benefitting families, children, workers, pets, and the environment.

Over 400 partner companies – including major multinationals – have invested in, and are committed to, EPA’s Safer Choice program. These companies collectively offer 2,000+ Safer Choice certified products in the marketplace. The Biden-Harris Administration considers the Safer Choice collaborative partnership with industry to be a highly-valued and foundational asset to EPA’s chemical safety mission, as well as an important opportunity to promote environmental justice. Congress has repeatedly expressed support for EPA’s P2 and Safer Choice programs.

While the previous administration sought to eliminate the Safer Choice program – indeed, the entire pollution prevention program – through budget submissions that proposed zeroing out these programs and implemented staff reductions, I am committed to rebuilding the Safer Choice and P2 programs because they play critical roles in protecting human health and the environment. Our pollution prevention efforts demonstrate meaningful opportunities for successful implementation of exposure reduction efforts and complement our risk management efforts under TSCA.

OPPT is starting that rebuilding process, focusing first on the Safer Choice program. Of the four staff scientists in OPPT’s Data Gathering and Analysis Division (DGAD) who are dividing their efforts between simultaneously working on Safer Choice and systematic review for TSCA risk evaluations, two will return to their full-time roles supporting the Safer Choice program. In the near future, after OPPT on-boards additional employees to help with spreading the workload in support of other OPPT priorities, we anticipate offering additional opportunities for OPPT to join the efforts to help rebuild Safer Choice. At the same time, we have already begun exploring opportunities to leverage expertise across OCSPP to further augment the Safer Choice program by taking full advantage of OCSPP capabilities across our organization.

We take great pride in our programs and the people that are central to our environmental mission success. We will continue to identify and implement other opportunities to best utilize the expertise of our staff as we work together to meaningfully protect public health and the environment.

All the best,

Michal

Michal Freedhoff, Ph.D.

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